

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



7218

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : G01N	A2	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/03223 (43) International Publication Date: 20 January 2000 (20.01.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/15315 (22) International Filing Date: 8 July 1999 (08.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/092,309 8 July 1998 (08.07.98) US 60/098,135 27 August 1998 (27.08.98) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BEIMESCH, Wayne, Edward [US/US]; 711 Red Bud Drive, Covington, KY 41015 (US). (74) Agents: REED, T., David et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AT (Utility model), AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, CZ (Utility model), DE, DE (Utility model), DK, DK (Utility model), EE, EE (Utility model), ES, FI, FI (Utility model), GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SK (Utility model), SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD FOR MEASURING VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND A KIT FOR SA ME (57) Abstract A method for measuring volatile organic compounds (VOCs) of a material produced in a process system is disclosed. The method involves an enclosed bag into which a sample of material is placed, after which the bag is stored at a predetermined temperature such that the contents reach equilibrium. The storage temperature is the mean exit temperature of the effluent from the process system for which a VOC measurement is required. Samples from the headspace in the bag are inputted into a flame ionization detector to provide the VOC level. A kit for using the method is also disclosed.		

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Latvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KE	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CJ	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberia	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

**METHOD FOR MEASURING VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS AND A KIT FOR
SAME**

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention generally relates to measuring volatile organic compounds. More particularly, the invention relates to a convenient, inexpensive, quick method by which the volatile organic compounds (VOC) of a material produced in a process system can be measured and a kit containing an enclosed bag with a sealable opening and instructions for the VOC measurement method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A long-standing problem in the chemically-related manufacturing industry has been the way in which the rate of VOC emissions is controlled and monitored. The concerns associated with VOC control and monitoring are well rooted in governmental policies throughout the world, all of which are aimed at reducing the emission of such VOCs into the atmosphere. Additionally, the manufacturing industries themselves have been notably concerned with safety and environmental concerns associated with VOC emissions. As a result, since the onset of the industrial revolution, the chemically-related manufacturing industry has striven for zero to minimal VOC emissions. To that end, relatively expensive and time-consuming VOC measurement techniques have been developed and have been constantly employed to monitor VOC emissions of virtually every unit operation in every manufacturing facility throughout the world. In fact, numerous companies have sprouted into existence which specialize in testing techniques for VOCs and aid in ensuring compliance with specific strict company as well as governmental regulations. Such specialization and expertise render these services extremely expensive, and therefore, significantly add to the overall expense of whatever product is being manufactured. Accordingly, there remains a need in the art for an inexpensive, less time-consuming, method by which VOCs can be conveniently measured for a given material being produced in a process system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention meets the needs in the art by providing a method for measuring VOCs of a material produced in a process system or unit operation. The method involves an enclosed bag into which a sample of material is placed, after which the bag is stored at a predetermined temperature such that the contents reach equilibrium. The storage temperature is the mean exit temperature of the effluent from the process system for which a VOC measurement is required.

Samples from the headspace in the bag are inputted into a Flame Ionization Detector or equivalent apparatus to provide the VOC level.

In accordance with one aspect of the invention, a method for the measuring volatile organic compounds of a material produced in a system having emissions or an effluent is provided. The method comprises the steps of: (a) disposing an amount of the material in an enclosed bag having a sealable opening such that there is headspace above the material in the enclosed bag; (b) storing the enclosed bag containing the solid material at the mean exit temperature of the emissions of the system such that equilibrium between the material and the headspace is reached; and (c) introducing samples from the headspace into a flame ionization detector which thereby measures the volatile organic compounds of the material.

In another aspect of the invention, a kit for measuring the volatile organic compounds of a material produced in a system having emissions is provided. The kit comprises: (a) an enclosed bag having a sealable opening to allow an amount of said material to be placed in said enclosed bag such there is headspace above said material; and (b) instructions for analyzing samples from said headspace in said enclosed bag, thereby providing said volatile organic compounds of said material. In preferred modes, the instructions for analyzing samples include withdrawing said samples from said headspace using a flame ionization detector, and/or storing the enclosed bag in a temperature adjustable apparatus.

All percentages and proportions herein are by weight, and all references cited are hereby incorporated by reference, unless otherwise specifically indicated.

Accordingly, it is an advantage of the invention to provide an inexpensive, less time-consuming, method by which VOCs can be conveniently measured for a given material being produced in a process system. This and other features and attendant advantages of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from a reading of the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment, drawing and the appended claims.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a side-view of an enclosed bag used in the VOC measurement method described herein; and

Fig. 2 is a graphical representation of the data generated in Example II for determining the minimum amount of sample required to obtain an accurate VOC measurement.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

The method in accordance with the invention essentially requires the use of an enclosed bag, and a means for chemically analyzing samples from the headspace inside the bag. The

enclosed bag preferably has a sealable opening so that a sample of material can be placed inside the bag, after which it is sealed for storage. After storage, the bag is unsealed so that samples (typically vapor) from the headspace can be taken for chemical analysis. As used herein, the "material" for which the VOCs are required can be a liquid, paste or solid. The method disclosed herein has several advantages in that it only requires a small sample for determining the VOC of a large process system without using expensive, on-line (i.e., moving the equipment to the VOC discharge point) analytical equipment, and the method provides an early and convenient VOC emission indication. The latter advantage being extremely useful for researchers experimenting with new raw materials and need to know the potential downstream VOC emissions of such raw materials when ultimately scaled-up to commercial production volumes.

In typical situations in which a VOC measurement is required, a bench-scale or commercial-scale process system is in place, and for any give unit operation within such a process system, an effluent is generated which typically comprises air or other gas containing VOCs. It is the VOC content in this effluent resulting from the production of the material in the unit operation or process system that is measured by the method described herein. By way of example, in the commercial manufacture of laundry detergents, it has been conventional for fluid bed dryers to be used to produce granular detergent products. In such a process system, the granules produced vary in composition. Consequently, the amount of VOCs produced in such detergent manufacturing operations involving fluid bed dryers will vary accordingly.

This method can be conveniently employed to measure the VOCs of a fluid bed drying operation for the production of a granular detergent product having a particular composition. If the composition is changed as is quite often the case with commercial detergent manufacturing, the method can be easily and quickly employed to determine the new VOC amount. In such an operation, a sample (5 to 100 grams) of the granules from the fluid bed dryer are sampled and placed in an enclosed bag (e.g., 7400 cc). The enclosed bag preferably has an inner liner formed of aluminum foil and an outer liner of polymeric material (e.g., polyethylene) such that the bag can be collapsible while samples are being withdrawn from the headspace. The foil lining can be made of material other than foil so long as it achieves the purpose of being vapor impermeable so as not to lead to inaccurate VOC measurements. It should be understood, however, that any bag is suitable for use herein so long as it can be safely stored at the requisite temperature and remain sufficiently collapsible for the samples to be withdrawn from the headspace above the sample for Flame Ionization Detection (FID) and does not contribute to the

VOC measurement. The mean exit temperature of the effluent from the fluid bed dryer is determined so that a conventional oven can be set to that temperature. The bag is then placed in the oven at the mean exit temperature of the fluid bed dryer for a time sufficient for the contents to reach equilibrium.

Referring now to Fig. 1, an enclosed bag 10 in accordance with the invention is shown from a side-view. The bag 10 can be easily constructed by a two layer (inner foil layer and outer polymer layer) 100 cm x 35 cm sheet and folding it in half, then folding three edges 12, 14, 16 and the four corners, 18, 20, 26 and 28 to form a the bag 10 having a conical an opening 22 through which the samples are placed into the bag 10. The bag 10 edges 12, 14 and 16 and corners 18, 20, 26 and 28 can be sealed with heavy duty duct tape 24 or equivalent sealing means. The resulting bag 10 volume is about 7400 cm³. Those skilled in the art will appreciate the numerous other ways in which similar bags can be constructed for use in the method invention described herein.

While not intending to be bound by theory, it is theorized that in real process or unit operation systems such as a fluid bed dryer, significant amounts of hot air removes water from the material for which a VOC measurement is needed. While the water is being removed, VOCs are also transported out of the material due to the increase in material temperature as drying or other process operation proceeds. Estimating the amount of VOC using a mathematical model is difficult because of the amount of information required, including the organic composition of the material, amount of organics in the material, vapor pressure of the material, amount of diffusion of organics through the material, mass transfer of organics from the surface of the material, temperature of the system, and the equilibrium concentration above or in the headspace of the material. The present method provides a convenient direct measurement of the equilibrium concentration above the material, i.e., in the headspace in the bag above the sample material.

Exemplary process systems or unit operations on which the method may be employed, include but are not limited to, spray dryers, mixers, fluid bed dryers and coolers, and storage tanks. The storage times will vary widely depending upon the process system and material for which a VOC measurement is needed, but typical times are for from about 1 hour to about 3 days, more typically from about 5 hours to about 24 hours. Exemplary sample amounts will depend on the bag size, but typically is from about 1 gram to about 100 grams. The minimum amount of sample material can be determined as described in Example II hereinafter. The amount will vary as mentioned previously, but is generally determined by using a sample

amount that ensures that equilibrium has been reached between the sample and the headspace inside the bag. In certain process systems or unit operations, true equilibrium between the volatile organic compounds and the process system may not occur for a variety of reasons, for example the process may have a short cycle time. In these situations, the present process can be used to obtain the maximum VOC amount at a given temperature of the process system as the true VOC will be some fraction of the VOC value determined by the present process. Similarly, the storage temperatures will vary widely depending upon the mean exit temperature of the process system, but a typical mean exit is from about 5°C to about 100°C.

A commercial product which can be sold specifically for using the method of the invention can be in the form of a kit for measuring the volatile organic compounds of a material produced in a system having emissions. The kit may include the bag having a sealable opening to allow an amount of the material to be placed in the enclosed bag such there is headspace above the material, and a means for analyzing samples from the headspace in the enclosed bag such as a FID. The kit will preferably include instructions for use which generally tracks the method described herein.

The following examples are intended to illustrate one or more of the various embodiments of the invention, but are not intended to be limiting in any manner of the full scope of the claims appended hereto.

EXAMPLE I

A bag suitable for use in the method is constructed or obtained as described with respect to the Figure. In a large-scale manufacturing facility in which a detergent composition is being produced, a large sample of detergent particles being dried in a fluid bed dryer is taken at the inlet of the dryer and riffled down to five 20 gram samples. The bags are constructed of material composed of 100% 28 gauge aluminum foil on the inside (for sterile/inert cavity) and 48 gauge polyethylene on the outside (for strength). The bag material is cut into a 100 cm by 35 cm rectangle and folded with the aluminum on the inside. The sides of the bag are folded with two approx. 6 mm folds and the open end is folded on both sides with 10 mm folds until there is only approx. a 40 mm opening left resulting in a angled/cone shaped appearance. All folds are then sealed with high strength/high temperature fabric or duct tape leaving only the 40 mm opening unsealed. Each of the five 20 gram samples are poured into separate bags as shown in the Figure. Thereafter, each bag is filled with ultra high purity air (0% hydrocarbon content) to about 90% of the expanded volume to leave room for taping the bag opening closed (opening folded twice and tape shut) and for bag expansion due to eventual heating of the bag. The mean

exit temperature of the fluid bed dryer is 120°F (49°C), and therefore, the enclosed bags are stored in a constant temperature oven at 120°F (49°C) for 12 hours to allow the headspace in each bag to come into equilibrium with the sample. Thereafter, each of the five samples are withdrawn from the bag using a probe which is fed into a Flame Ionization Detector ("FID"; commercially available from Eagle Monitoring Systems, Inc., Model No. EM 7000). Conventional operation instructions for the FID are followed which include but is not limited to the following steps:

1) Setup - Install regulators on cylinders and connect to proper inlet ports on the EM 7000. Use 1/4" TPFE teflon tubing. If data taker is being used connect wires to 4 - 20 mA located on back of EM 7000. Plug EM 7000 into 120 V outlet, power up EM 7000 by depressing the red button on the front panel in this position the power switch light will be lit, also the ignition switch (yellow) light will be on. This is to indicate a "flame out" condition. Depress the blue buttons for desired range (0-100, 0-1000, 0-10,000, 0-100,000 ppm). Turn on the oven to heat up cell, button is marked oven located on front panel. Temperature controller is located in the center of the front panel. Set point should be set at 150°C oven will take approximately 1 hour to heat to this temperature. When oven is almost to temperature turn on pump, button is located on the front panel, also turn on controller for the heated sample hose. Open valves to gas cylinders, set the regulators for fuel and combustion air to 40 psi. Set rotameters located on the front panel of FID, rotameter labeled fuel is set at approximately 22 cc/min., rotameter labeled combustion air is set at approximately 200 cc/min. Set regulators for zero and calibration gases to 40 psi.; there is a single stage regulator attached to reduce the pressure from 40 psi. to no more than 1 psi. Fuel and combustion air needs to flow through unit for approximately 15 mins. before lighting flame.

2) Ignition of flame - A 2-position switch located on the back panel is used to select one of two glow plugs used to ignite the flame. Depress the ignition switch and hold no longer than 20 seconds.

3) Calibration - Select the low range button, and make sure EM 7000 is stable at the desired temperature. Adjust sample back pressure. This is done by turning the black knob on the front panel of the unit until pressure gauge located on the front panel is at the specified setting. The specified setting for sample back pressure is 2.5 psi.. Ensure that the flow rate of H₂ and combustion air are at the specified setting (the flow rates are 22 cc/min. for H₂ and 200 cc/min. for combustion air). Introduce zero air to the instrument by depressing the "zero" button. Adjust sample back pressure to 2.5 psi.

Observe the baseline on the data recorder, and adjust the zero potentiometer until display reads approximately zero ppm.

4) Calibration adjustment procedure - Select the calibration range by depressing the appropriate range button. Introduce calibration gas to the analyzer by selecting the span button, and adjust sample back pressure to 2.5 psi. Observe the concentrations of ppm on the data recorder and adjust the calibration (gain) potentiometer on the front panel to set the meter to read the value of the calibration gas as indicated on the cylinder. Depress the "span" button and check zero again, adjust if necessary (remember to set sample back pressure to 2.5 psi), recheck calibration and adjust if necessary. This may have to be repeated three or four times. Depress both span and zero buttons; the instrument is now pulling in sample gases. Adjust sample back pressure to 2.5 psi.

The VOCs of each of the five samples contained in the bag are averaged to give a value of 15 ppm by volume on a propane ppm basis. Unexpectedly, this VOC measurement value is statistically the same as measurements taken using much more expensive, time-consuming VOC on-line measurement equipment.

EXAMPLE II

This Example sets forth a method by which the minimum amount of sample material necessary for ensuring accuracy of the VOC measurement can be determined. This is based on determining the equilibrium level inside the bag for a given unit operation (e.g., fluid bed dryer) operating at a certain temperature. Specifically the following steps are conducted:

1. Place 0.5 grams of a sample material in a bag as described in Example I;
2. Place the bag in an oven at a given temperature for 16 hours;
3. Sample the bag using a probe from a FID to measure the VOC in the headspace of the bag as described in Example I;
4. Repeat steps 1-3 using increasing amounts of a sample material;
5. Repeat steps 1-4 at different oven temperatures;
6. Repeat steps 1-5 at different storage times;
7. With the data collected from steps 4-6, generate a graph as shown in Fig. 2 (REP = repeat);
8. Using the graph from step 7 such as Fig. 2, the minimum amount of sample can be seen in that the flat part of the curves represents that equilibrium has been reached; any sample amount in the flat part of a given temperature curve will ensure an accurate VOC measurement; and

9. Use at least the sample amount for measuring the VOCs as described in Example I; 20 grams is an appropriate amount based on Fig. 2 for a fluid bed system as exemplified in Example I. As the skilled artisan will appreciate, the methodology of steps 1-9 can be done on different systems (e.g., spray drying tower) and on liquid or paste samples in which the minimum sample amount may be substantially less than 20 grams.

Accordingly, having thus described the invention in detail, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes may be made without departing from the scope of the invention, and the invention is not to be considered limited to what is described in the specification.

What is claimed is:

1. A method for the measuring volatile organic compounds of a material produced in a system having emissions, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) disposing an amount of said material in an enclosed bag having a sealable opening such that there is headspace above said material in said enclosed bag;
 - (b) storing said enclosed bag containing said solid material at the mean exit temperature of said emissions of said system such that equilibrium between said material and said headspace is reached; and
 - (c) introducing samples from said headspace into a flame ionization detector which thereby measures said volatile organic compounds of said material.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said system is a fluid bed dryer.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said system is a spray dryer.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said storing step is for from about 5 hours to about 24 hours.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said amount of said material is from about 1 gram to about 100 grams.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said system is a storage tank.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said mean exit temperature is from about 5°C to about 100°C.
8. A kit for measuring the volatile organic compounds of a material produced in a system having emissions, said kit comprising:
 - (a) an enclosed bag having a sealable opening to allow an amount of said material to be placed in said enclosed bag such there is headspace above said material; and
 - (b) instructions for analyzing samples from said headspace in said enclosed bag, thereby providing said volatile organic compounds of said material.

9. The kit of claim 8 wherein said instructions for analyzing samples include withdrawing said samples from said headspace using a flame ionization detector.
10. The kit of claim 8 wherein said instructions for analyzing samples include storing said enclosed bag in a temperature adjustable apparatus.

1/2

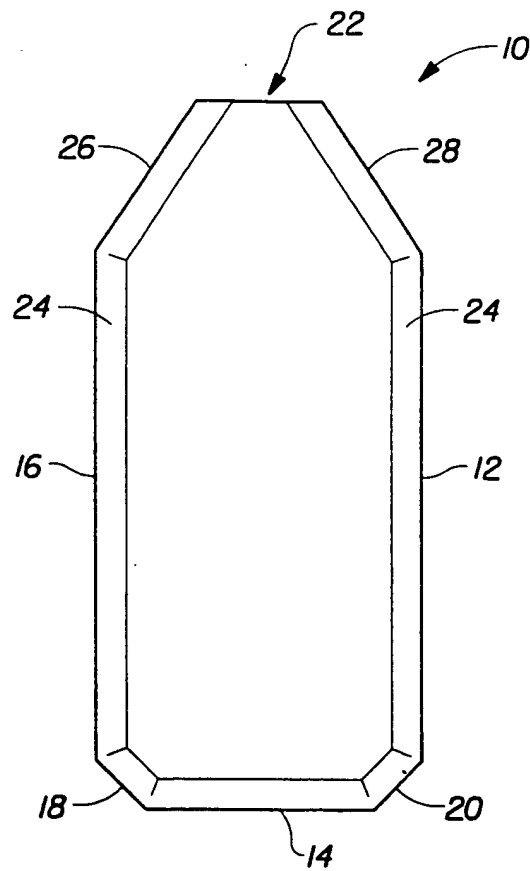


Fig. 1

2/2

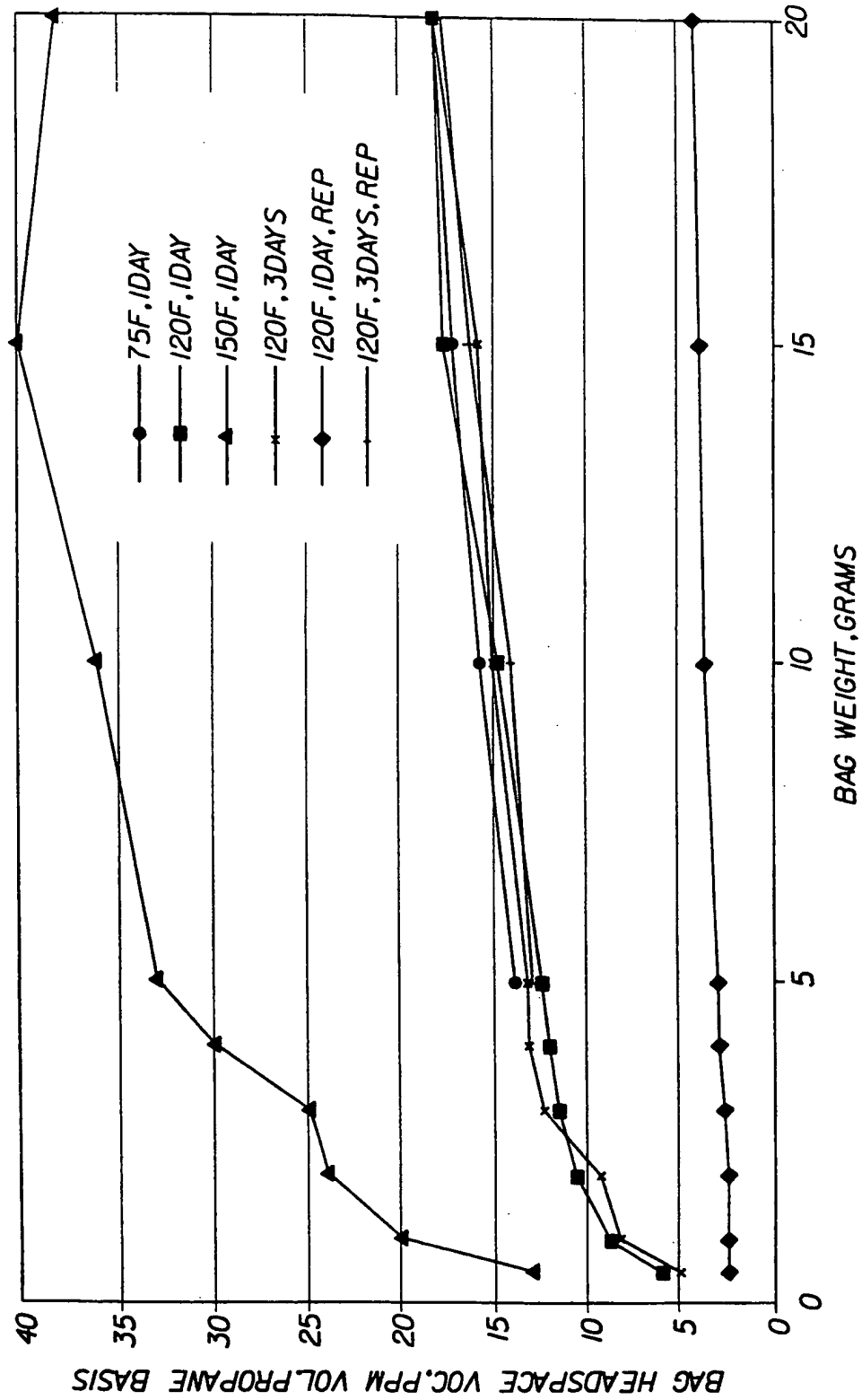


Fig. 2

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

REC'D 02 NOV 2000

WIPO

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7218/DK	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US99/15315	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/07/1999	Priority date (day/month/year) 08/07/1998
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G01N1/00		
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 24/01/2000	Date of completion of this report 31.10.2000
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Mason, W Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2623 

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US99/15315

I. Basis of the report

1. This report has been drawn on the basis of (*substitute sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to the report since they do not contain amendments.*):

Description, pages:

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, No.:

1-10 as originally filed

Drawings, sheets:

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

3. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

4. Additional observations, if necessary:

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US99/15315

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	1-7
	No:	Claims	8-10
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-10
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

RE SECTION V

The following documents are referred to in this opinion:

D1=US5140845 D2=US5101670

The present application relates to a method for measuring volatile organic compounds (VOCs) emanating from solid material produced from a process system, in particular a chemical industrial process. A sample of the solid material is placed in a bag having a resealable opening and the bag is heated to a temperature corresponding to that at which it exits from the process. VOCs emitted from the sample collect in the head space above the solid and are introduced into a flame ionisation detector (FID). The application also relates to a kit comprising the bag and instructions for use.

1. INDEPENDENT METHOD CLAIM 1

D1 (Fig. 1) is considered to represent the closest prior art and discloses a method for determining VOCs of soil samples contaminated by hydrocarbons (e.g. in the vicinity of petrol stations). The method comprises opening a reclosable, collapsible bag and inserting a soil sample; closing the bag to leave a head space; agitating the bag to release volatile compounds and then connecting the head space to a flame ionisation detector. D1 also discusses the factors which affect the equilibrium concentration in the head space, in particular the temperature on which the variable H_i depends.

D1 is therefore considered to disclose all features of claim 1 except:

i) the sample is a material produced in a system having emissions and the temperature is set at the exit temperature of such emissions from the system.

Re i):

In D1 the sample is contaminated soil and there is no suggestion that the method should be applied to other samples in particular those produced in a system

having emissions.

D2 (Fig. 2) which does relate to VOC determination (in waste water samples) discloses collection of samples in containers such as gas tight syringes, canisters, bags or bottles by connection to the waste fluid stream. D2 is therefore less relevant than D1 as a starting point for discussion of inventive step and in addition there is no motivation for combining D1 and D2 in view of their different fields (earth sample contamination and fluid process monitoring).

Claim 1 (and dependent claims 2-7) therefore meets the requirements of novelty and inventive step (Arts. 33.2, 3 PCT).

2. INDEPENDENT APPARATUS CLAIM 8

D1 (Fig. 1) is again considered to represent the closest prior art and since the claim relates to a kit the nature of the sample "material produced in a system having emissions" is only limiting in as much as the bag needs to be suitable for samples of this form which is clearly the case.

Claim 8 therefore differs from the disclosure of D1 in the provision of :
ii) instructions for analysing samples from the head space in said enclosed bag.

D1 (cols 4-6) describes the mathematical theory underlying the determination of VOC concentrations, the need for calibration and that the device is intended for field use. Since typical users would not be expected to be aware of such underlying details and in view of the field use of such devices, the provision of operating instructions is obvious if not implicit from D1.

Claim 8 therefore does not meet the requirement of inventive step (Art. 33. 3).

The additional features of dependent claims 9-10 are evident from D1 as discussed above so that these claims also do not meet the requirement of inventive step.

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 7218/DK	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/US 99/ 15315	International filing date (day/month/year) 08/07/1999	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 08/07/1998
Applicant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 2 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☐ as suggested by the applicant.

☒ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1
☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US 99/15315

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G01N1/00 G01N33/24

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G01N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 140 845 A (ROBBINS GARY A) 25 August 1992 (1992-08-25)	1-7
X	figure 1	8-10
A	US 5 101 670 A (STEGER JOETTE L ET AL) 7 April 1992 (1992-04-07)	1-10
A	US 5 416 253 A (WELTMAN HENRY J ET AL) 16 May 1995 (1995-05-16)	1-10
A	EP 0 334 570 A (KEATING ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE) 27 September 1989 (1989-09-27)	1-10
	figure 1	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

18 April 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/04/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Mason, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 99/15315

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 5140845	A	25-08-1992	US 5050425 A	24-09-1991
US 5101670	A	07-04-1992	NONE	
US 5416253	A	16-05-1995	US 5188754 A	23-02-1993
			DE 69230176 D	25-11-1999
			EP 0598023 A	25-05-1994
			US 5370817 A	06-12-1994
			WO 9303102 A	18-02-1993
			US 5437808 A	01-08-1995
			US 5604196 A	18-02-1997
EP 0334570	A	27-09-1989	US 4815398 A	28-03-1989
			AU 628813 B	24-09-1992
			AU 3358389 A	16-10-1989
			BR 8907330 A	26-03-1991
			CA 1327336 A	01-03-1994
			JP 3505912 T	19-12-1991
			MX 166416 B	07-01-1993
			WO 8909365 A	05-10-1989
			US 5220874 A	22-06-1993

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KNOPS, Peter, C.
Lathrop & Gage, L.C.
2345 Grand Boulevard
Suite 2800
Kansas City, MO 64108
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 17 January 2001 (17.01.01)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference 7218/DK	
International application No. PCT/US99/15315	International filing date (day/month/year) 08 July 1999 (08.07.99)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:		
<input type="checkbox"/> the applicant	<input type="checkbox"/> the inventor	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the agent
<input type="checkbox"/> the common representative		
Name and Address REED, T., David The Procter & Gamble Company 5299 Spring Grove Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45217-1087 United States of America	State of Nationality	State of Residence
	Telephone No. 513 627 7025	
	Facsimile No. 513 627 6333	
	Teleprinter No.	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the person	<input type="checkbox"/> the name	<input type="checkbox"/> the address
<input type="checkbox"/> the nationality	<input type="checkbox"/> the residence	
Name and Address KNOPS, Peter, C. Lathrop & Gage, L.C. 2345 Grand Boulevard Suite 2800 Kansas City, MO 64108 United States of America	State of Nationality	State of Residence
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
3. Further observations, if necessary:		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office	<input type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned	
<input type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned	
<input type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer S. De Michiel
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF THE RECORDING
OF A CHANGE(PCT Rule 92bis.1 and
Administrative Instructions, Section 422)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

KNOPS, Peter, C.
Lathrop & Gage, L.C.
2345 Grand Boulevard
Suite 2800
Kansas City, MO 64108
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 17 January 2001 (17.01.01)	IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION
Applicant's or agent's file reference 7218/DK	
International application No. PCT/US99/15315	International filing date (day/month/year) 08 July 1999 (08.07.99)

1. The following indications appeared on record concerning:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the applicant	<input type="checkbox"/> the inventor	<input type="checkbox"/> the agent <input type="checkbox"/> the common representative
Name and Address THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY One Procter & Gamble Plaza Cincinnati, OH 45202 United States of America	State of Nationality US	State of Residence US
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
2. The International Bureau hereby notifies the applicant that the following change has been recorded concerning:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the person	<input type="checkbox"/> the name	<input type="checkbox"/> the address <input type="checkbox"/> the nationality <input type="checkbox"/> the residence
Name and Address MIDWEST RESEARCH INSTITUTE 425 Volker Boulevard Kansas City, MO 64110-2299 United States of America	State of Nationality US	State of Residence US
	Telephone No.	
	Facsimile No.	
	Teleprinter No.	
3. Further observations, if necessary:		
4. A copy of this notification has been sent to:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the receiving Office	<input type="checkbox"/> the designated Offices concerned	
<input type="checkbox"/> the International Searching Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> the elected Offices concerned	
<input type="checkbox"/> the International Preliminary Examining Authority	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland	Authorized officer S. De Michiel
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38